DAD SCHOOL

Copyrighted July 2104 (updated August 2022) by Rev. Don Allen, Jr. Ph.D. (This project was written in conjunction with the staff of both Through HIM Ministries & Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, Cleves, Ohio (USA) … (Special thank you to Pastor Jody Burgin & Pastor James Hansee).

Our Objective at Dad School is:

To help men within the Church and our community to grow in their role as DAD, keeping in mind this is not about biological dads it is about the man we call dad.

Understanding:

First understanding the term Dad, we are not talking about a sperm donor, we are not talking to a biological father that takes no responsibility, we are not talking about the father who only sends a check, not about the father that is so busy at work, with sports, or even at the church doing

ministry and missing out on all the activities, and we are definitely not talking about the dead beat dad. We are talking about ***DAD***!

One dictionary said simply that "Dad" is a slang word for as a child it became the word that recognized the man that would influence my formative years, the man that would be there when I was sick, hurt, and simply needed someone to play with, the man that would invest his life in mine so that my life was worth living. This individual could be a biological father, step-dad, grandfather, uncle, or even a friend.

A recent tribute given on Facebook by a young lady that my wife babysat for a number of years ago the man she calls dad is priceless, "*Big S/O to ole Rod on his 40th birthday! You've played a huge role in my life and have made me the person I am today. You stepped into my life as a father figure at a young age and you've been nothing less of an amazing dad. From taking me salamander hunting with you to seeing me off to my first prom you've been there for it all. I don't know what I'd do without you! Love ya you old man*." This is the dream of ever father that his biological children, step-children, foster children would have this kind of love and respect for him.

As a parent (Don Allen, Jr) "I have attempted to carry on that legacy with my two children, my daughter and son are now young adults in their early twenties. I loved nothing more than to hear the word "Dad" come out of their mouths, when they were little and even today it sends chills down my spine when one of them is on the phone or in another room and ask their mom, where's dad?" When they want to come and discuss a dilemma or even share an accomplishment or something about their day. However, the key is that I have to be willing to listen.

Paul writes in Romans 8:15 (NIV) "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to Sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." This verse is sharing the loving, compassionate, and carrying heart of God for each of his Children. The term "Abba" in that day was a term of affection similar to "Daddy."

One of the downfalls as DAD's is there are often three very unhealthy rules in the home, and they will inevitably lead to major problems, which include:

Don't Talk

Don’t Tell

Don’t Trust

As a DAD it is imperative we break these cycles in our homes and develop safe, appropriate and Godly rules, and provide a safe and appropriate home for our children to grow up in.

Write out Ephesians 6:4 and reflect on how you would apply this verse in your personal relationship with your children.

It is important that we understand that being a DAD is the most important job and it requires us to work at it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There is a quote attributed to St. Francis Xavier:

“Give me the child until he is seven and I’ll give you the man”. …. I ask you dad why should you give your son or daughter to someone else, it is your JOB!!!!

What makes a man a DAD and not just a father? Let’s look at an Acrostic that helps us understand the concept of Dad better.

- ***Dependable: Participate and communicate with my children daily***
  - Develop a Table Talk time, where you set aside time daily to listen and share
  - Quality time, not the quantity of time.
  - Insightful conversations, not just talking to be heard
  - Listening to them, even when you know the answers
    - There a big difference between Hearing (we hear hundreds of things at a time, radio, TV, kids, vacuum cleaner, etc.) and Listening (However, we can only successfully listen to one person or thing and understand)!
  - Age-appropriate conversations
    - This is very important, be very careful of what you discuss with younger children
  - Don't share the family problems during this time. (i.e. discussing the household fiancés, your wife's and your marriage conflicts, etc.) … And to be honest, we should never share them with young children.

- ***Affirming: Let them know they are special and always valued in my sight and strengthen a closer relationship with them daily.***
  - Acknowledging their strengths (what makes them special)
  - Praise their accomplishments
  - Helping them overcome their weaknesses
  - Using positive talk, not negative (see words of affirmation in Appendix C)
    - Proverbs 25:11
  - Help them develop their dreams and goals
    - Give them honest, practical, and appropriate advice
  - Encourage them to fulfill their dreams and goals, encouraging them to go after their own not yours from your childhood.

- ***Devoted: Teach them daily through Biblical principles, discipline them appropriately, and encourage them to mature into the men/women God wants them to be.***
    - Understand that my first responsibility as DAD is to bring them to Christ!
        - Deuteronomy 6: 5-9
        - Matthew 19: 14
    - Be a parent, when being a friend would be easier.
        - This is especially important as they become teenagers.
    - Respect their mother, even when she causes you stress
        - This is even important when the mom and dad don't live together. It is never appropriate to disrespect their mom in front of them.
    - Admit your faults and limits, and move ahead
    - Defend them when they are being hurt, discipline them when they doing the hurting
    - Don't assume that your children are always right until you hear all the facts.

Appendix A:

Here is my job description that I (Don Allen, Jr.) use for raising my daughter and son (she is now 24 and he is 21 years)!

- Love them
- Supply them with his/her needs, and as many wants a possible
- Teach him/her to Love God.
- Show him/her how to love their mother.
- Show your son how to respect and treat women in his life.
- Show your daughter what to look for in a man, and how they should be expected to be treated.
- Encourage & strengthen them to be the man or women of God they should be.

Appendix: B

10 Dos and Don’ts for Dads

1. **Connect before you correct.** Part of every Dad's role is to bring a healthy sense of structure and discipline to the family. Communicating with your child, which includes listening to their "side" of the issue, is a key first step in successful, loving discipline.

2. **Be there.** One of the great myths is that a little "quality" time makes up for a substantial "quantity" of time. Going to school, sporting and other events is a big deal! It says - "I have your best interests at the center of my heart" to your child. *Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing*.
   ~ Philippians 2:4

3. **Express love often.** Kids (especially pre-teens and teens) act like they don't want their parents to "make a fuss" over them. It's just an act. Kids need hugs and kisses ... affirm them at every opportunity.

4. **Phony, macho men are only heroes in the movies.** Real Dads aren't perfect. You can be a hero to your children if you open your heart to them and admit when you've made mistakes. They have an enormous capacity to forgive and their hearts' desire is to love and be loved. *People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.*
   ~ Proverbs 28:13

5. **Never make your child choose between parents.** If you have problems with your wife, don't try to convince your child that you're "right" or the "victim". This causes an emotional split in your child and will ultimately drive him or her further away from you. Confine the adult issues to the adults.

6. **Love your wife.** The greatest Dad in the world will minimize the true impact he has on his children if he does not model Godly intimacy in front of his kids. That's where the cornerstone of their future marriage is laid. *Since God chose you to be the holy people whom He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you ... And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.* ~ Colossians 3:12-14

7. **Be consistent.** When you are consistent in your actions, love and discipline, an environment of safety and security is created. Kids need to know that there are some things they can always count on. *Discipline your child while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.* ~ Proverbs 19:18

8. **Be careful, you're in the spotlight.** Your kids are watching every move you make. To some extent, their picture of you shapes their picture of their Heavenly Father. You have the opportunity to create a positive, loving image or a confusing and untrustworthy one. *Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness - righteous, holy and true.* ~ Ephesians 4:23,24

9. **Guard your tongue.** The words you speak to your children can cut like a knife or send them soaring like a rocket. They will remember some things you say in passing for the rest of their lives. *Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.* ~ Proverbs 16:24

10. **Develop Godly character.** Nothing will influence your children more than watching you grow in your relationship with God. You can preach the Gospel by your actions much more effectively than you can by your words. *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done.*
~ Colossians 2:6,7

Appendix C:

45 Positive Affirmation you can share with your children:

POSTIVE AFFIRMATIONS BUILD POSITIVE RESULTS …

1. AWESOME JOB
2. BINGO, YOU GOT IT
3. DYNAMITE
4. EXCELLENT
5. FANTASTIC
6. FANTASTIC JOB
7. GOOD
8. GOOD JOB
9. GREAT
10. GREAT DISCOVERY
11. GREAT JOB
12. HOW SMART
13. I KNEW YOU COULD DO
14. I'M PROUD OF YOU
15. LOOKING GOOD
16. MAGNIFICENT
17. MARVELOUS
18. NICE WORK
19. NOTHING CAN STOP YOU NOW
20. NOW YOU'VE GOT IT
21. OUTSTANDING
22. OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE
23. REMARKABLE JOB
24. SUPER
25. SUPER JOB
26. SUPER WORK
27. TERRIFIC
28. THAT'S CORRECT
29. THAT'S INCREDIBLE
30. WAY TO GO
31. WELL DONE
32. WHAT A GOOD LISTENER
33. WOW
34. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE
35. YOU FIGURED IT OUT
36. YOU TRIED HARD
37. YOU'RE A WINNER
38. YOU'RE FANTASTIC
39. YOU'RE IMPORTANT
40. YOU'RE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS
41. YOU'RE ON TARGET
42. YOU'RE ON TOP OF IT
43. YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY
44. YOU'RE SPECTACULAR
45. YOU'VE DISCOVERED THE SECRET

And always remember …

SMILE IS WORTH A 1000 WORDS …